

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 7-11, 13, 15, and 16 are amended. Support for the amendments is found in, for example, FIGS. 4 and 12 and related portions of the specification, as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the foregoing amendments and following comments is respectfully submitted.

In section 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0118275 (Harman) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,945,965 (Inoguchi). Applicants respectfully traverse.

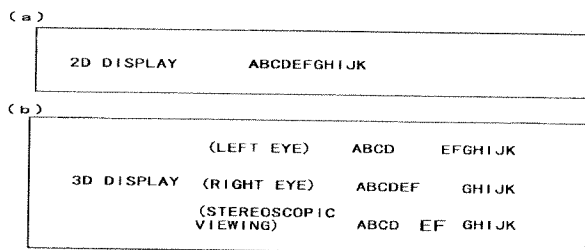
Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

render the second object at a third horizontal position in the left and right viewpoint images determined based on the parallax amount, such that the first and second objects do not overlap in either of the left and right viewpoint images.

Also, independent claim 9 recites, *inter alia*,

rendering the second object at a third horizontal position in the left and right viewpoint images determined based on the parallax amount, such that the first and second objects do not overlap in either of the left and right viewpoint images.

FIG. 4 of the present application illustrates a non-limiting embodiment of the above limitations:



As illustrated in FIG. 4(b), a first object "EF" is rendered with a parallax between the left- and right-eye images, and a second object "GHIJK," which is specified as rendered adjacent to the

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first object “EF” in a horizontal direction and rendered with no parallax between the left- and right-eye images, is rendered at a horizontal position based on the amount of parallax applied to first object “EF,” such that the first and second objects do not overlap in either of the left- and right-eye images – specifically, second object “GHIJK” is positioned far enough to the right to ensure that there is no overlap with the rendering of first object “EF” in the left-eye image, which has a horizontal position to the right of the rendering of first object “EF” in the right-eye image.

In contrast, Harman does not disclose or make obvious rendering the second object “at a third horizontal position in the left and right viewpoint images determined based on the parallax amount” used for the first object, as recited in independent claims 1 and 9. In Harman the horizontal position of an object with zero parallax is independent of, and not determined by, a parallax amount applied to another object in a different layer with parallax. Instead, Harman discloses that an amount of displacement in the lateral direction in the left and right eye images for an object is simply a function of its depth – not where another object is to be rendered in the left and right images. *See* Harman, paragraph [0065] (“The object identification indicates which object to shift and the assigned depth indicates by how much”) (*emphasis added*).

Inoguchi’s technique of displaying a mixed image does not bridge the above gaps between independent claims 1 and 9 and Harman. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 9 are not rendered obvious by the cited art. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under Section 103(a) of independent claims 1 and 9, and claims 2-8 and 10-16 which depend thereon.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this

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Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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